

of constitutional government"—as though this kind of a government is the best conceivable. Others, who argue that the so-called constitutional government is a fake and a fraud, designed to dupe the workers while it serves only the bosses, are glad to see the veil torn away from the pretense of "democracy" under capitalism. It is difficult for the most gullible worker to keep on being deceived in the face of such occurrences.

Those who hold this point of view are elated rather than disturbed by the action of the New York assembly. It saves a lot of argument.

Profit Sharing

A report issued by the National Industrial Conference Board throws a searchlight on the subject of profit sharing. From 1870 to 1896 of all the profit sharing schemes, 76% were abandoned after average trial of two to three years.

In the main, profit sharing is a device used to avoid higher wage scales during high prosperity periods, and the enthusiasm for sharing profits goes down as the profits slip a notch. It is better to pay the wages in this indirect form, with all the bunk that goes with it, and to let wages alone. In other words, the workers are given a tip to make them bow and scrape more willingly; but the share of profits added to the regular wages is, for the most part, what is needed to bring the wages up to a living standard.

A "Model" Child Labor Law

Illinois is one of the states with a "model" child labor law. It is very fine—in print. As a matter of fact, in Chicago alone, 28,000 children are now at work, 4,000 more than ever before.

All the labor legislation in the world can make no difference until a blow is struck at the fundamental vice, the profit system. There are always enough exceptions in every child labor law to allow the families of the workers to save themselves from starvation by sending the children to work, and the capitalists are constantly busy holding down wages and forcing up prices so that it becomes absolutely necessary for the children to give up school and go to work.

Middle Class Union

The "middle class union" idea, started in England, is going the rounds. However, the Belgians are not so hypocritical about their intentions as the English. The Belgian Middle Class Union is being organized in 12 departments, corresponding to various public-utility industries and training is being given for strike-breaking service.

An application was made, a little while back, for incorporation under the New York laws, of a Middle Class Union. No doubt the art of strike-breaking will be developed in this country as highly as anywhere else, or more so. But strike-breaking is not of much account when the workers act on a general class basis.

Particularly is the propaganda being directed against strikes by public-utility workers. Why should these workers, the public slaves, be on a different basis from others? It is very easy, after all, to declare any industry a public utility under emergencies, as was done during the war. And then all the workers will find themselves public slaves. One United Working-Class Union is what is needed.

"Better American Federation"

In California, as part of the nation-wide movement of the employers against the union shop and against any legislative restrictions in dealing with the workers, has been organized the "Better American Federation." The program is: to have the age of compulsory education reduced from 16 to 14; to abolish the 8-hr. day; to abolish the minimum wage law for women; to get rid of the law against night work for women and for mine-workers, because it "denies them equal opportunity;" to abolish collective bargaining.

A highly organized and heavily financed open shop movement is now established in 76 cities.

It doesn't sound "loyal" or "patriotic," but somebody will have to take up the fight against "Americanization." Maybe we shall soon be hearing more of loyalty by the American workers to the working class of this country and of the world.